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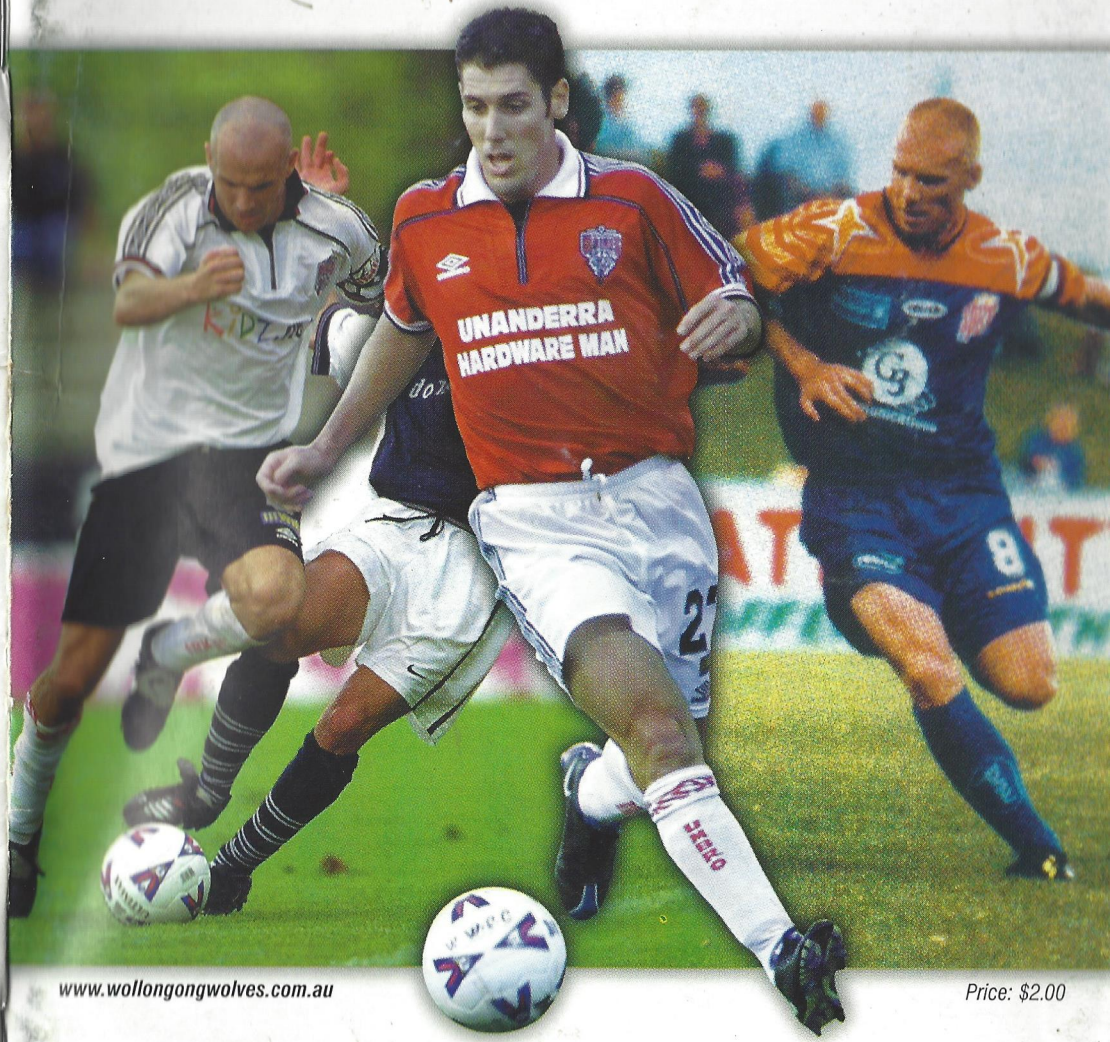
VERSUS

Northern Spirit



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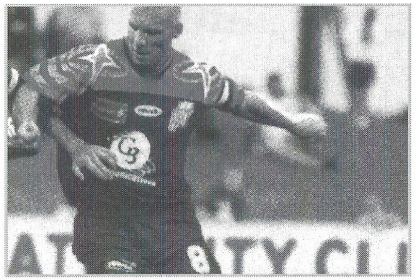


It's been a rollercoaster ride for Northern Spirit coach Mick Hickman since taking over the reins from former coach Graham Arnold just three weeks ago.

Hickman joined the club as assistant coach last month but was offered the top job two weeks later with Arnold taking on a coaching role with the LG Australian Socceroos.

Hickman's first game in charge was one to forget. Spirit lost 1-0 at home to lowly Eastern Pride and suddenly his head was on the chopping block.

Spirit fans could be heard singing chants matching the demise of their club on that night.

But a few positive results in recent weeks have made life a little easier for Hickman, who once coached Sydney Olympic, Reading, Wolverhampton and San Frecce.

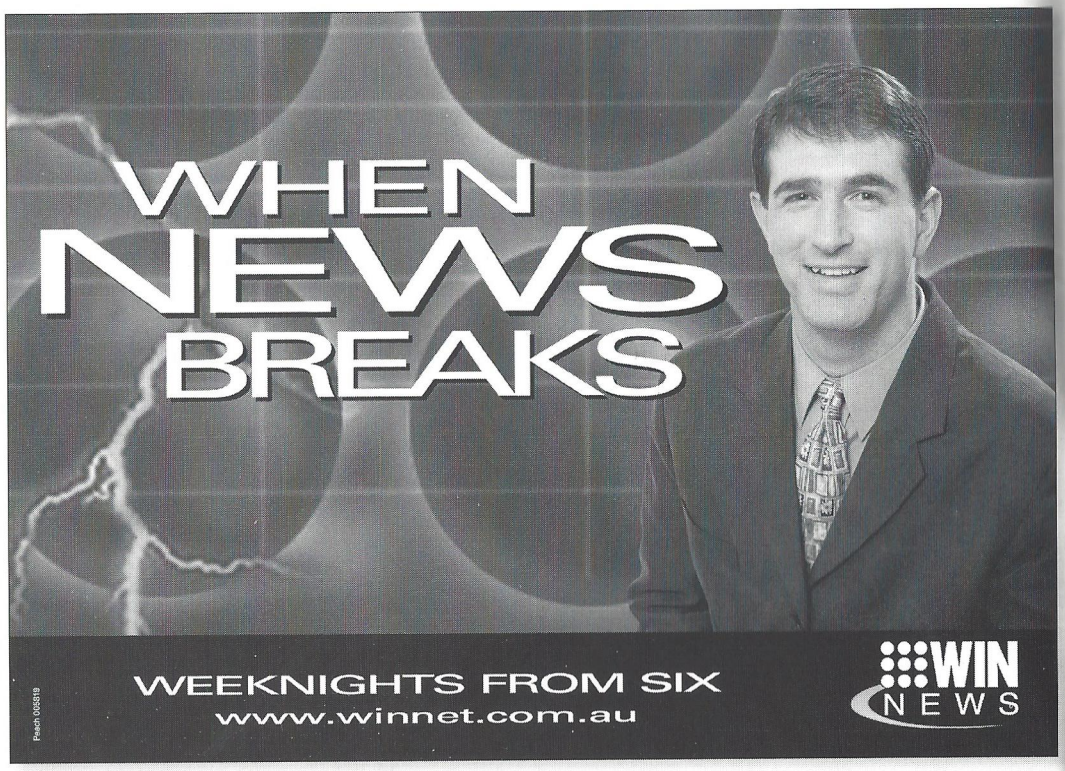
"Obviously things have happened very quickly. I came here after Arnie asked me to come in a do a job for him and I was happy to do that. I came here to work with Arnie, not against him to take over the top job," Hickman said.

"Arnie has been offered this job, which is a step up to the National program, and Northern Spirit has offered me the opportunity to take over as caretaker coach."

"In the time I have been here I have seen some positive things that gives me confidence in being able to turn things around. We will be looking to get some stability and get some wins on the board in the short term. Long term we obviously want to get Northern Spirit back to the top of this league."

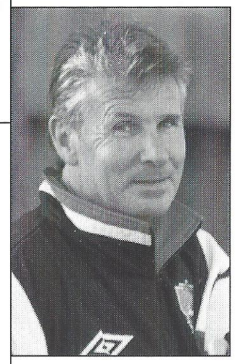
Arnold tabled his resignation a fortnight ago after taking up an exciting offer to extend his involvement with the LG Socceroos to a full time position as Australia moves towards the important lead up to qualification for the 2002 World Cup.

On a positive note for Spirit, they bring with them former Wollongong players Noel Spencer and Tony Perinich to WIN Stadium tonight. By Nathan Simpson



ron's page

COACH



We are certainly where we want to be at this stage of the season and that's near the top of the ladder.

Our position is due to a combination of good performances, matched by a good eye for goal and continued support from you, the fans.

The strength of the team also means we are also in a position to claim all three points, whether we are playing home or away this season. And at this stage of the season winning matches is vital to keep up with the front-runners.

Tonight I welcome Mick Hickman and Northern Spirit to Wollongong.

Mick is a good friend and will do well as coach of the Spirit.

I have no doubt we will come away with the three points, which I have spoken about. But I also wish Spirit well for the remainder of the season.

I think the league needs a healthy Spirit. When doing well, they attract big crowds. and promote the game well.

I was pleased to see a great turn out at our last home game, against the Knights. But I'd still like to see more fans at WIN Stadium.

Thank you for your support tonight.

Player of the Round (Round 19) - Paul Reid

Many thanks to Denis Suess from ***Indent Tile Power*** for sponsoring the 1st Grade "Pewter Tankard Award" for the Player of the Match Award at all home games.

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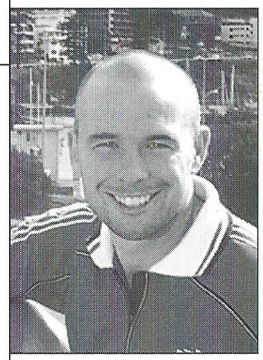
CAPTAIN



I'd never thought I'd say this to Noel Spencer ... I hope you're on the losing side tonight! There, I got it out of my system.

Of course there's nothing like giving my old teammate a good ribbing. After all, we are good mates. And now that Noel is playing for Northern Spirit, it gives me more amunition to have a dig!

Still, there's no doubting Noel's talent on a soccer field. That's why he was in our grand final winning team last season. Noel is an excellent midfielder. He gets the job done. And he did the job for us last season before moving to Spirit.

Tonight's game against Northern Spirit is a vital one for Wollongong. Firstly, we must contain Noel and his teammates and collect the three points.

Some fans have pointed out to me in the past few weeks that these catch-up games will be difficult. But I don't see it that way.

Why? Because we love to play soccer.

It's an enjoyable experience for all of us and team morale is at its highest. Anyhow, records show that we defeated Spirit both home and away last season.

And if we can continue to show our true spirit, which helped us qualify for Spain, then it should go all the way to us winning tonight.

I welcome Noel to WIN Stadium tonight ... but we'll take the points. I'm sure!

Matt Horsley #6

Player of the Round** (Round 19) - **Paul Reid

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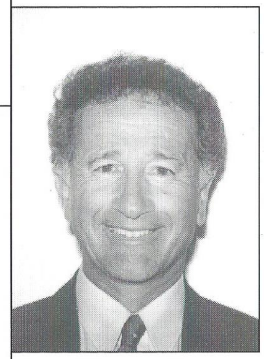
chairman's page

JOE CACHIA



We are looking forward to a good contest tonight from Northern Spirit.

They may be struggling for success this season, but there are too many quality players in the team to write them off.

We have been in their position before, so we are aware how important tonight's game is to them.

A win over the current National Soccer League champions would make up for some of Northern Spirit's disappointment of the past few months.

But, our boys do not intend showing any sympathy. We have a very professional outfit that has shown great qualities in a tough season, especially since the start of this year.

As I said in the last edition of our program, the boys were magnificent in winning the Oceania section of the World Club Cup Championship and then coming home to face Perth Glory in Perth and share the points.

They are now dedicated to chasing South Melbourne to put us up where we belong - on top!

Our prospects for another successful season in the NSL are looking bright.

Thank you to all of our supporters who have got behind the boys and given them such fantastic backing.

***Man of the Match** (Round 19) - Harvey Rodriguez*

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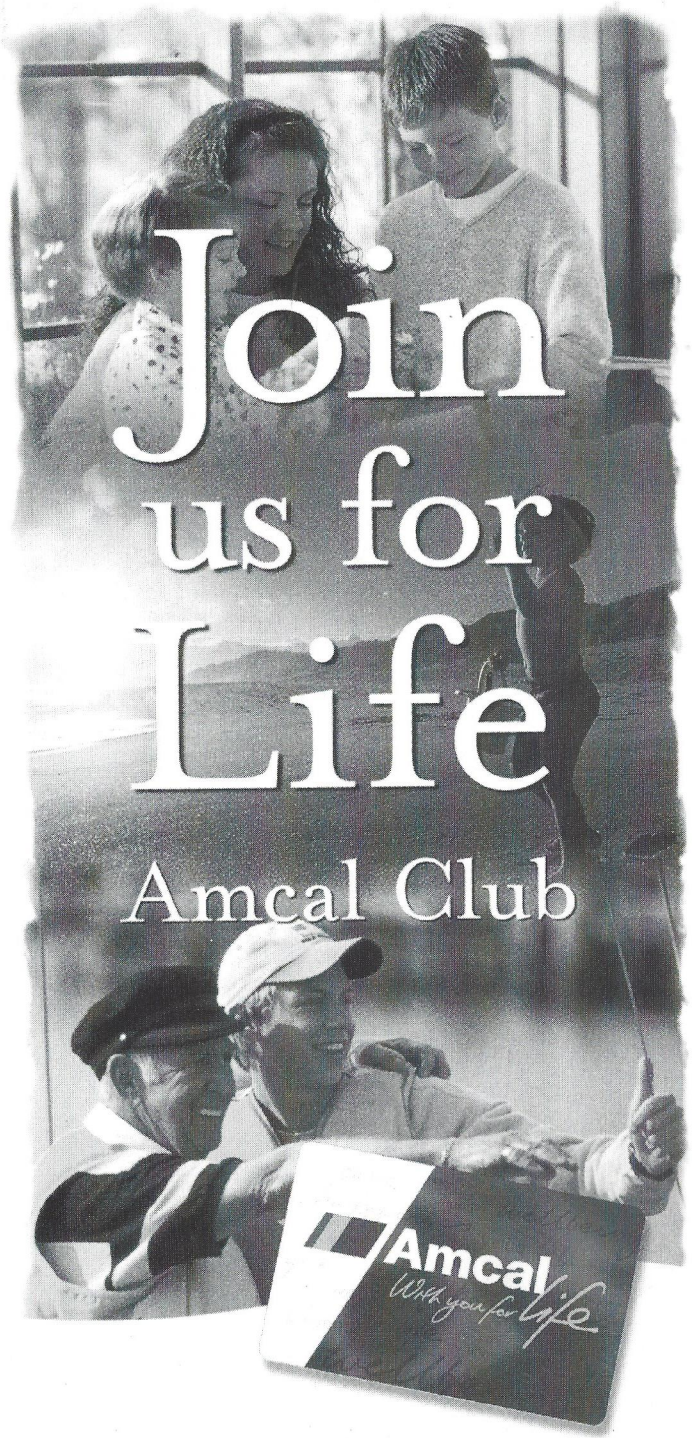

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off to spain

BY NATHAN SIMPSON

You beauty! The Wollongong Wolves are off the Spain.

Who'd have thought just a few years ago the club was capable of achieving such great success. We are the champions of Australia, kings of Oceania, and representatives at the upcoming World Club Championships in Spain.

It's all happened so quickly. But it's been a memorable ride. None of it would have happened hadn't we won last season's grand final. Who could ever forget that match in front of 43,000 fans at Perth's Subiaco Oval. It's since gone down in history as the most sensational NSL grand final ever played.

If beating Perth wasn't enough, the boys then had to face the best teams throughout the Oceania region. The conditions were terrible at times in Papua New Guinea, not to mention the constant humidity. But we came through unscathed, defeating Vanuatu's Tafea 1-0 in the final and earning a place at the WCC.

Even Tourism Wollongong has jumped on the bandwagon. "Just the name Wollongong promoted around the world would do wonders for the region," general manager Jim Eddy said.

"The association of the team to the city will create a positive impact in itself. It'll be great for the region and for the sport.

"We'll be placed on a world stage. People will be wanting to know where Wollongong is ... billions of people will hear the name Wollongong.

"They'll be even more surprised to learn we have beautiful beaches, set among a picture-perfect mountain range, coupled with breath-taking scenery."

Mr Eddy added it was likely the Wolves would be asked to include a series of brochure and video packages when packing its bags for Spain. Wolves captain Matt Horsley said the club had built a strong fan base in PNG and was confident the same would be achieved in Europe.

"The boys are all excited ... it really hasn't sunk in yet. It's amazing to think just what kind of things can happen from here with our club set to become global," he said.

A small club that's overachieved, some may call us. But come August we'll be a $5 million-plus club on the verge of bigger and better things.

Viva Wolves. Viva Espana!

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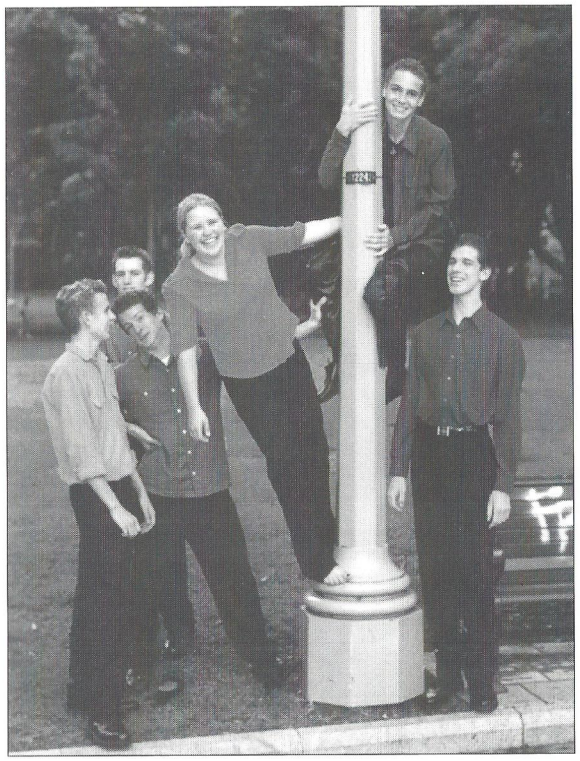

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season draw
2000 - 2001

Round	Date	Day	Against	Time	Venue	Score
1	**14/10/00**	**Saturday**	**Perth Glory**	**6.30pm**	**Win Stadium**	**1-1**
2	22/10/00	Sunday	Carlton SC	3.00pm	Bob Jane Stadium	2-2
3	**28/10/00**	**Saturday**	**Marconi Stallions**	**6.30pm**	**Win Stadium**	**1-0**
4	5/11/00	Sunday	Melbourne Knights	6.00pm	Knights Stadium	2-1
5	**11/11/00**	**Saturday**	**Brisbane Strikers**	**6.30pm**	**Win Stadium**	**2-1**
6	19/11/00	Sunday	Parramatta Power	4.00pm	Parramatta Stadium	2-0
7	**24/11/00**	**Friday**	**Canberra Cosmos**	**7.30pm**	**Win Stadium**	**2-3**
8	1/12/00	Friday	Newcastle United	7.30pm	Marathon Stadium	3-1
9	10/12/00	Sunday	South Melbourne	5.00pm	Bob Jane Stadium	2-4
10	**16/12/00**	**Saturday**	**Sydney United**	**6.30pm**	**Win Stadium**	**2-0**
11	23/12/00	Saturday	Sydney Olympic	6.30pm	Belmore Sports Ground	2-2
12	**29/12/00**	**Friday**	**Eastern Pride**	**7.30pm**	**Win Stadium**	**4-2**
13	**5/1/01**	**Friday**	**Kingz FC**	**7.30pm**	**Win Stadium**	**1-1**
16	27/1/01	Saturday	Perth Glory	7.00pm	Perth Oval	1-1
17	*Cancelled due to the withdrawal of Carlton from the National Soccer League*					
18	10/2/01	Saturday	Marconi Stallions	7.00pm	Marconi Stadium	3-1
19	**17/2/01**	**Saturday**	**Melbourne Knights**	**6.30pm**	**Win Stadium**	**5-2**
20	23/2/01	Friday	Brisbane Strikers	7.30pm	Ballymore	4-2
14	**27/2/01**	**Tuesday**	**Northern Spirit**	**7.30pm**	**Win Stadium**	
21	**2/3/01**	**Friday**	**Parramatta Power**	**7.30pm**	**Win Stadium**	
22	10/3/01	Saturday	Canberra Cosmos	6.30pm	Bruce Stadium	
23	**16/3/01**	**Friday**	**Newcastle Breakers**	**7.30pm**	**Win Stadium**	
24	**23/3/01**	**Friday**	**South Melbourne**	**7.30pm**	**Win Stadium**	
15	25/3/01	Sunday	Adelaide City Force	8.00pm	Hindmarsh Stadium	
25	1/4/01	Sunday	Sydney United	3.00pm	Sydney United Sports Centre	
26	**7/4/01**	**Saturday**	**Sydney Olympic**	**6.30pm**	**Win Stadium**	
27	14/4/01	Saturday	Eastern Pride	7.00pm	Mobil Park	
28	20/4/01	Friday	Kingz FC	7.30pm	Ericsson Stadium	
29	25/4/01	Wednesday	Northern Spirit	7.30pm	North Sydeny Oval	
30	**29/4/01**	**Sunday**	**Adelaide City Force**	**3.00pm**	**Win Stadium**	

Home games in bold. Please note that this draw is subject to change.

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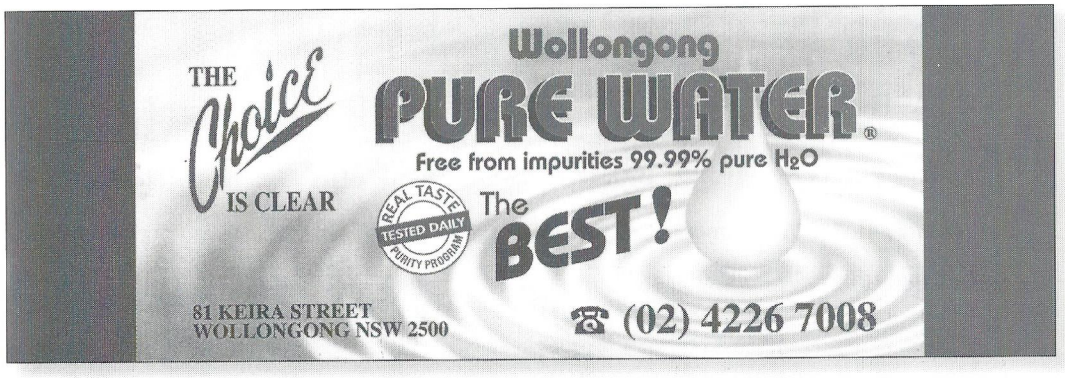

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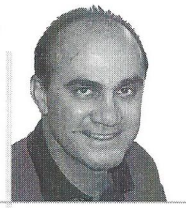

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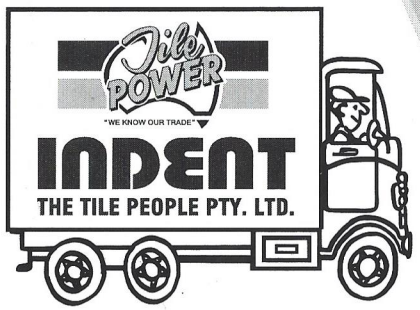

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around the grounds
REVIEW - ROUND 20

FEBRUARY

Newcastle United	**2**	***Goals:*** A. Surjan 48', D. McBreen 79'		
Northern Spirit	**4**	***Goals:*** M. Langdon 60', D. Watkins 63', 70', C. Foster 77'		
Venue: Marathon Stadium		***Referee:*** Brett Hugo	***Crowd:*** 6,875	
Adelaide City Force	**1**	***Goals:*** N. Day 68'		
Football Kingz	**1**	***Goals:*** M. Cartwright 88'		
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium		***Referee:*** Con Diomis	***Crowd:*** 36,37	
Canberra Cosmos	**0**			
Parramatta Power	**1**	***Goals:*** L. Roodenburg 77'		
Venue: Bruce Stadium		***Referee:*** Gerry Connolly	***Crowd:*** 2,012	
Perth Glory	**2**	***Goals:*** B. Despotovski 19', J. Carbone 43'		
Eastern Pride	**1**	***Goals:*** J. Hutchinson 47'		
Venue: Perth Oval		***Referee:*** Eddie Lennie	***Crowd:*** 11,732	
Marconi Stallions	**5**	***Goals:*** J. Gibson 22', K. Trajanovski 56', A. Thompson 60', 68', R. Brownlie 93'		
Sydney United	**2**	***Goals:*** F. Awaritefe 1', T. Pondeljak 64'		
Venue: Marconi Stadium		***Referee:*** Matthew Breeze	***Crowd:*** 5,420	
Brisbane Strikers	**2**	***Goals:*** P. Dwyer 18', P. Buljan 28'		
Wollongong Wolves	**4**	***Goals:*** S. Chipperfield 4', S. Petrovski 60', P. Reid 62', S. Young 75'		
Venue: Ballymore		***Referee:*** Simon Micallef	***Crowd:*** 2,457	
Melbourne Knights	**4**	***Goals:*** A. De Costa 17', A. Cervinski 19', J. Porter 21', L. Lapsansky 54'		
South Melbourne	**0**			
Venue: Knights Stadium		***Referee:*** Mark Shield	***Crowd:*** 7,320	
Sydney Olympic		***Bye (automatic 3 points)***		

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For the information of Members & Guests

team line-up's

WOLVES & SPIRIT

Wollongong Wolves

1	Daniel Beltrame
2	George Souris
3	Alvin Ceccoli
4	Robert Stanton
5	David Cervinski
6	Matthew Horsley
7	Paul Reid
8	Max Nicholson
9	Saso Petrovski
10	Stuart young
11	Scott Chipperfield
12	Paul Harries
13	George Nohra
14	Jay Lucas
15	David Huxley
16	Beren Sullivan
17	Ben Blake
18	Paul O'Grady
19	Steven Dimitrievski
20	Grant Barlow
23	Dino Mennillo
26	Dean Anastasiadis
27	Robbie Middleby

Northern Spirit

1	John Perosh
2	Michael Cunico
3	Matthew Langdon
4	Matthew Bingley
5	Mark Rudan
6	Scott Thomas
7	Robbie Slater
8	Robbie Enes
9	Alex Moreira
10	Gabriel Mendez
11	Troy Cranney
12	Ben Burgess
13	Phil Moss
14	Noel Spencer
15	Tony Perinich
16	Simon Catanzaro
17	Paul Bilokapic
18	Daniel Watkins
19	Ryan Griffiths
20	Paul Henderson
21	Adam Griffiths
22	Jack Sobczyk
23	Adam Snyder
24	Tony Faria
25	Craig Foster
26	Joseph Schirripa
28	Ian Crook
29	Todd Macrae
30	Graham Arnold

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27. Robbie Middleby

Born: 9.8.75
Height: 172cm
Weight: 72kg
Position: Midfielder

Photo by Orlando Chiodo
Courtesy of The Illawarra Mercury

1 Daniel Beltrame
2 George Souris
3 Alvin Ceccoli
4 Robert Stanton
5 David Cervinski
6 Matthew Horsley
7 Paul Reid
8 Max Nicholson
9 Saso Petrovski
10 Stuart young
11 Scott Chipperfield
12 Paul Harries
13 George Nohra
14 Jay Lucas
15 David Huxley
16 Beren Sullivan
17 Ben Blake
18 Paul O'Grady
19 Steven Dimitrievski
20 Grant Barlow
23 Dino Mennillo
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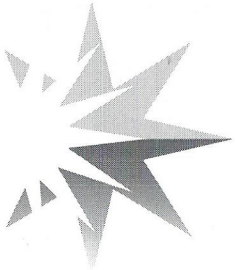
27 Robbie Middleby

1 John Perosh
2 Michael Cunico
3 Matthew Langdon
4 Matthew Bingley
5 Mark Rudan
6 Scott Thomas
7 Robbie Slater
8 Robbie Enes
9 Alex Moreira
10 Gabriel Mendez
11 Troy Cranney
12 Ben Burgess
13 Phil Moss
14 Noel Spencer
15 Tony Perinich
16 Simon Catanzaro
17 Paul Bilokapic
18 Daniel Watkins
19 Ryan Griffiths
20 Paul Henderson
21 Adam Griffiths
22 Jack Sobczyk
23 Adam Snyder
24 Tony Faria
25 Craig Foster
26 Joseph Schirripa
28 Ian Crook
29 Todd Macrae
30 Graham Arnold



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the wolves season

2000 - 2001

Date	Opponents	F-A	Att.	1 Daniel Beltrame	2 George Souris	3 Alvin Ceccoli	4 Robert Stanton	5 David Cervinski	6 Matthew Horsley	7 Paul Reid	8 Max Nicholson	9 Saso Petrovski	10 Stuart Young	11 Scott Chipperfield	12 Paul Harries	13 George Nohra	14 Jay Lucas	15 David Huxley	17 Ben Blake	18 Paul O'Grady	19 Steven Dimitrievski	20 Grant Barlow	21 Frank Barila	23 Dino Mennillo	26 Dean Anastasiadis	27 Robbie Middleby
14/10	Perth Glory •	1-1	5,443	▶	▶			▶	▶	▶		▶	▶ 1					▶	▶					▶		
22/10	Carlton	2-2	1,446	▶	▶		▶ 1	▶	▶	▶		▶	▶	▶ 1			▶	▶	▶					▶		
28/10	Marconi Stallions •	1-0	4,011	▶	▶			▶	▶ 1			▶	▶	▶			▶	▶	▶					▶		
5/11	Melbourne Knights	2-1	4,863	▶	▶		▶	▶	▶ 1	▶ 1		▶	▶	▶		▶		▶	▶					▶		
11/11	Brisbane Strikers •	2-1	4,075	▶	▶		▶	▶	▶			▶	▶ 2	▶			▶	▶	▶					▶		
19/11	Parramatta Power	2-0	4,138		▶		▶	▶	▶	▶ 1		▶ 1		▶		▶		▶	▶			▶		▶		
24/11	Canberra Cosmos •	2-3	3,876		▶		▶	▶	▶	▶		▶ 1				▶		▶ 1	▶	▶		▶	▶			
1/12	Newcastle United	3-1	8,257		▶	▶	▶ 2		▶	▶			▶	▶ 1				▶	▶		▶	▶				
10/12	South Melbourne	2-4	7,589		▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶ 1		▶	▶	▶ 1				▶	▶			▶		▶		
16/12	Sydney United •	2-0	3,339		▶	▶ 1			▶	▶	▶	▶ 1	▶	▶				▶	▶	▶		▶		▶		
23/12	Sydney Olympic	2-2	4,263		▶	▶			▶	▶		▶	▶ 1	▶ 1				▶	▶			▶		▶		▶
29/12	Eastern Pride •	4-2	4,107			▶		▶	▶	▶ 1	▶	▶	▶	▶ 3				▶	▶	▶		▶		▶		▶
5/1	Kingz FC •	1-1	4,077		▶	▶		▶	▶			▶	▶ 1					▶	▶			▶		▶		▶
27/1	Perth Glory	1-1	16,019		▶	▶	▶		▶ 1	▶			▶	▶	▶		▶	▶	▶	▶		▶				▶
10/2	Marconi Stallions •	3-1	3,712		▶	▶	▶		▶	▶	▶	▶ 2	▶	▶ 1				▶	▶			▶				▶
17/2	Melbourne Knights	5-2	5,459		▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶		▶ 2	▶ 2	▶ 1				▶	▶			▶			▶	▶
23/2	Brisbane Strikers	4-2	2,457		▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶ 1		▶ 1	▶ 1	▶ 1				▶	▶			▶			▶	▶
27/2	Northern Spirit •																									
2/3	Parramatta Power •																									
10/3	Canberra Cosmos																									
16/3	Newcastle Breakers •																									
23/3	South Melbourne •																									
25/3	Adelaide City Force																									
1/4	Sydney United																									
7/4	Sydney Olympic •																									
14/4	Eastern Pride																									
20/4	Kingz FC																									
25/4	Northern Spirit																									
29/4	Adelaide City Force •																									

Team up with the Champions...
The Wollongong Wolves

Key

- ● - Home game
- ▶ - Played
- ▼ - Yellow card
- ▼ - Red card
- ◀ - Goals
- ▲ - Substituted on
- ▲ - Substituted off

from the stands
WITH DINO MENNILLO

Dino Mennillo paid the biggest compliment to his teammates this week after getting the chance to watch them in action from the stands since early January.

Unfortunately for the hard midfielder he's found himself on the sideline more times than he'd like having been sent off twice this season. But a reformed Mennillo says he's learnt his lesson and is rejuvenated to assist the Wolves achieve more success, starting against Northern Spirit.

"As much as I don't like sitting in the stands I've enjoyed watching the team. They're awesome," Mennillo said. "You see things from a different perspective and I must say you've got to admire the way we play.

"I'm so happy we're playing well. Seeing players such as David Huxley - someone who doesn't get a lot of recognition - and the work he does off the ball, makes you realise just how good he and everyone is doing. "Stuart (Young) is another one whose been doing a lot of work off the ball and I've also been impressed with Robbie Middleby. He's very quick.

Mennillo said he would have liked to have had more time on the playing field this season but his lack of appearances has been his fault. Earlier in the season he went to Europe to trial with Dundee (Scotland) and FC Twenty (Holland). On his return he found himself on the receiving end of a red card against Parramatta (Round 6) and was handed a two-match suspension. He also earned a red card against Kingz FC (Round 13) and once again was suspended for two matches.

Mennillo was then set to make his much-awaited return to the team against Melbourne Knights a little over a week ago, but an ankle injury kept him on the sideline, again. "I let myself down and the team with the sending offs," he said.

"But I'm happy the club and players have stood by me. I've never met a bunch of blokes who have been so humble about their success yet still have an enormous sense of pride." Mennillo spent five seasons with Adelaide City during the 1990s where he achieved much success. City made the finals five years running but never made a grand final - its best finish was a preliminary final against South Melbourne. He later spent six months with Kingz FC.

"I never really felt a valued member of the team in Adelaide, but I feel wanted with Wollongong," he said. "The coaching staff believe in me, which is a good feeling." Mennillo also recently resigned from his job as an occupational therapist in a bid to concentrate on soccer, and the upcoming World Club Championship.

"It was a tough decision but I had the backing from my lovely fiancee Michelle," he said. "She's great and supports me in everything I do." Dino and Michelle will tie the knot on June 16.

But for now its back to the football field for Mennillo. By Nathan Simpson

Photo by Orlando Chiodo, courtesy of The Illawarra Mercury

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how we're going

2000-2001 SEASON

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE POINTS TABLE (AFTER ROUND 20)

Team	played	wins	draws	losses	for	against	points
South Melbourne	20	11	5	2	42	15	44
Wollongong Wolves	**18**	**10**	**4**	**2**	**43**	**22**	**40**
Sydney Olympic	20	10	4	4	38	21	40
Perth Glory	20	10	6	3	47	22	39
Marconi Stallions	20	9	5	5	34	27	35
Melbourne Knights	20	9	3	7	40	32	33
Parramatta Power	20	8	2	9	30	28	29
Sydney United	20	6	5	7	30	36	29
Adelaide City Force	19	7	3	8	31	35	27
Northern Spirit	19	6	4	8	25	23	25
Football Kingz	20	5	5	9	27	31	23
Canberra Cosmos	20	4	4	10	29	32	22
Brisbane Strikers	20	4	6	9	32	37	21
Newcastle United	20	3	8	8	18	33	20
Eastern Pride	20	2	4	13	22	34	13

Other matches this round *(home team listed first);*

This match is being played between rounds 20 and 21.

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peep into the past

BY PHIL MURPHY

The Wolves have captured the imagination of Australian soccer fans by qualifying for the World Club Championship finals in Spain. They will be up against 11 of the top teams in the world and the Wollongong players will be seen live on TV screens all over the world. It is without doubt the greatest achievement an Australian club could hope for. To get to Spain the Wolves first had to win the NSL grand final and then become champions of Oceania. The Oceania qualifyings were played in Port Moresby recently and Illawarra Mercury soccer writer PHIL MURPHY was there.

It was always going to be a magical mystery tour. Port Moresby definitely wasn't the destination of choice for Wollongong Wolves players when they set off for the WCC qualifying series. They had heard a lot about Papua New Guinea and just about all of it was bad. Don't go out on the streets after dark and avoid going out on the streets at all if you can. That was just one warning that the players had heard. Then there was the water, the food and the diseases that had to be avoided.

The Wolves jetted out of Sydney on January 7. stopped off in Brisbane and were to be stunned by the oppressive heat of Port Moresby later that afternoon. It was something they needed to get used to. It was to become very clear that the floodlights at Lloyd Robson Stadium weren't up to scratch and games would start a lot earlier in the day than anticipated. As early as noon, to be exact.

Playing at noon in temperatures as high at 38 degress was a frightning prospect. In addition the playing surface at the stadium was poor - very bumpy and it got worse as the tournament progressed. Port Moresby is a depressing place but the Wolves party were fortunate to be staying at the Islander Travelodge Hotel. Accommodation and a number of other arrangements had been taken care of by club chairman Joe Cachia and head of delegation Phil Torpy during an earlier fact-finding mission to Port Moresby. Along with a late arrival, director Wal Boscoscuro. they were to become part of a very efficient backup team when the Wolves moved into their hotel.

They were fortunate to have a very efficient medical team in Dr Bruce Hamilton and physio Pat Brown. They worked in a very well equipped "surgery" on the hotel's third floor adjacent to a room occupied by team manager Jess Macchione and strapper Paul Watson. That area was to become a popular meeting place as players dropped in for threatment or just a chat. Every night after dinner, plans wouold be made for the following day - it was similar to a military operation. There was definitely a touch of military precision about the Wolves daily activities. The hotel was a perfect base - it had a large pool, tennis court, a volleyball court and walking track.

(continued page 37)

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For the information of members and their guests

(from page 35)

Around the perimeter of the hotel there was barbed wire and razor wire - and it wasn't put there by coach Ron Corry to keep the players inside. It was part of security in place all over Port Moresby to keep criminals on the outside. The players were confined to the hotel apart from games and training and when games finished late in the day there were the Police escorts. Because of security risks, the Australian High Commission arranged for escorts from Lloyd Robson Stadium to the hotel. A Police car took of in front of the two Wolves buses, blue and red lights flashing ans sirens sounding when it became necessary to clear intersections.

The most exciting part of the whole tour for the players. At the hotel, there were the card games, the cricket matches in the corridor on the second floor and even a couple of trivia nights. The players had two days off during their 17 days away from home. There was a trip to the war cemetery and a look around a local shopping centre. Another day there was a visit to the Australian High Commission compound, another area heavily fortified. The players took advantage of a swimming pool, tennis courts and other facilities before being treated to a real Aussie barbecue. The tournament started with Wollongong up against Tongan champions Lotoha'pui.

It finished in a 16-0 win for the Wolves, striker Sasho Petrovski getting seven goals before halftime. He was replaced at halftime but Petrovski had already become a cult hero with the population of Port Moresby. After wins against Napier City (New Zealand), Foodtown Warriors (Fiji), Unitech (PNG) and Laugu (Solomon Islands) the Wolves advanced to the semifinals.
That was were things started getting difficult. Venus from Tahiti provided a tough obstacle before the Wolves got home 2-0. In the final, it was Wollongong against Tafea (Vanuatu) and what a test of character that was for the Wolves players. By this time the ground was a dust bowl and it was another hot day.

To add to the problems, those Vanuatians could play. Goalkeeper Daniel Beltrame was called on to make two fine saves before Scott Chipperfield scored the only goal of the game. At full time, the public address operator was coerced into playing that well-known tune "Come On You Wolves" as the Wollongong players and backup staff celebrated a famous victory.

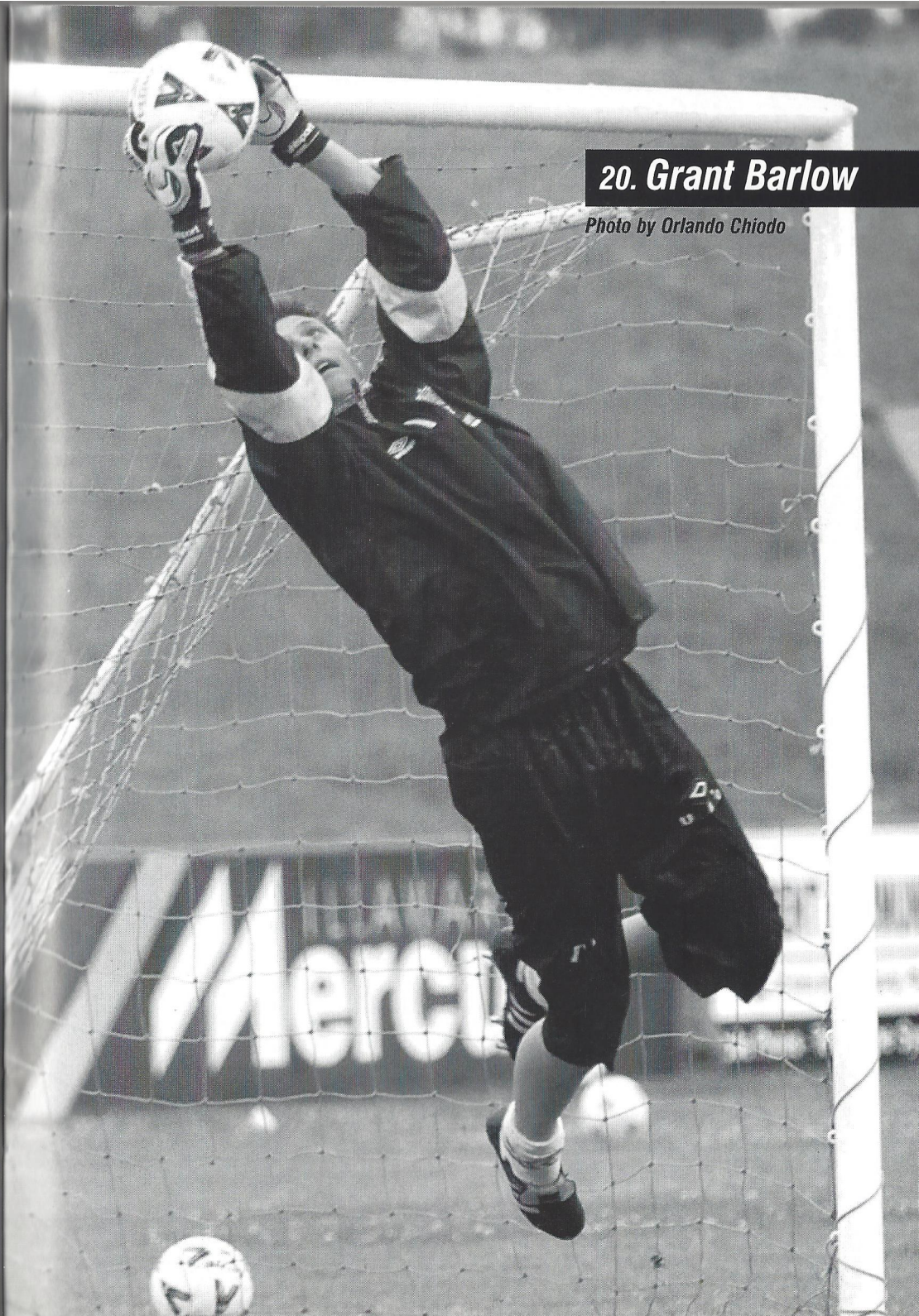
That evening there was a low key celebration in the hotel ballroom with a number of people who had helped the team during their stay dropping in. Early the next morning, an Air Nuguinea jet flew ther Wolves to Cairns and after four hours at the airport they flew on to Sydney. After warm welcomes at Sydney Airport and Fraternity Club, the players were to attend an official welcome function two weeks later. Great while it lasted, but the Wolves players were unanimous that they would rather not return to Port Moresby.

A New Northern reminder for Wolves supporters

If you have been travelling North on the Princes Highway in recent times, you will have probably already noticed our new banner on the Highway near Hale Street, Woonona advertising our next home fixture for the Wollongong Wolves.

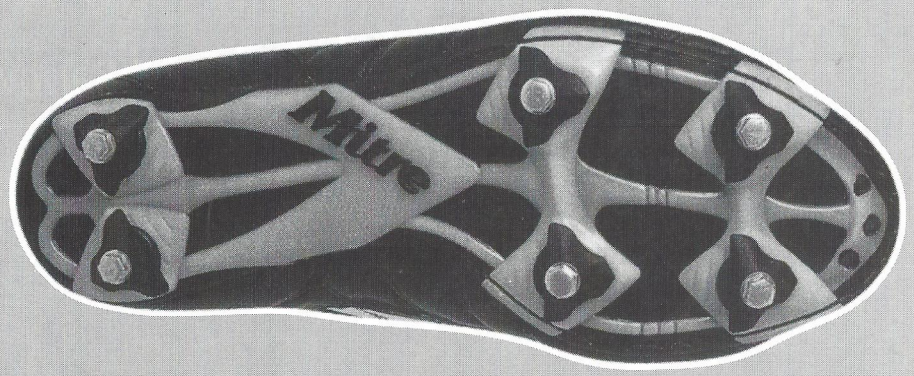
This site is added to our regular notices at;
BRANDON PARK, SPRINGHILL ROAD / FIVE ISLAND ROAD, PORT KEMBLA
CORRIMAL STREET (CITY) & FRATERNITY CLUB

We need one more to cover the Southern entrances to the City. Any volunteers or suggestions of sites? If you have, please contact Graeme Haney at the Wolves office on 4226 3988 or fax 4229 3282



20. Grant Barlow

Photo by Orlando Chiodo



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Package cost: $350pp (based on twin share). Note: only 40 seats available at this price, must book and pay by 1st March '01.

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Scott Chipperfield will be missing from tonight's game due to his selection into the Socceroo squad. Chippers is currently in South America with the Socceroos, ahead of this week's match against Colombia. The talented striker isn't new to touring in that region. He toured with the Socceroos, along with Matt Horsley, when they played Chile last year. Chippers will also miss Friday's nights home game against Parramatta Power.

The Wollongong Wolves Golf Day proved an enormous success last Monday. More than 150 people took part with the day won by Scott Chipperfield's team, consisting of Geoff Chessell and Matt Mears (Stockland Group), and John Mussard (John Mussard Motors). A signed autographed shirt was auctioned with the lucky recipients being South Coast Tile & Slate.

Here's some good news for Wolves fans planning to attend the 2002 World Cup in Korea and Japan. The new Team Specific Tickets (TSTs) gives supporters the chance to purchase tickets to see their team all the way through to the final, should the team qualify, or as far as the team progresses throughout the competition. More information can be obtained online at www.FIFAworldcup.com.

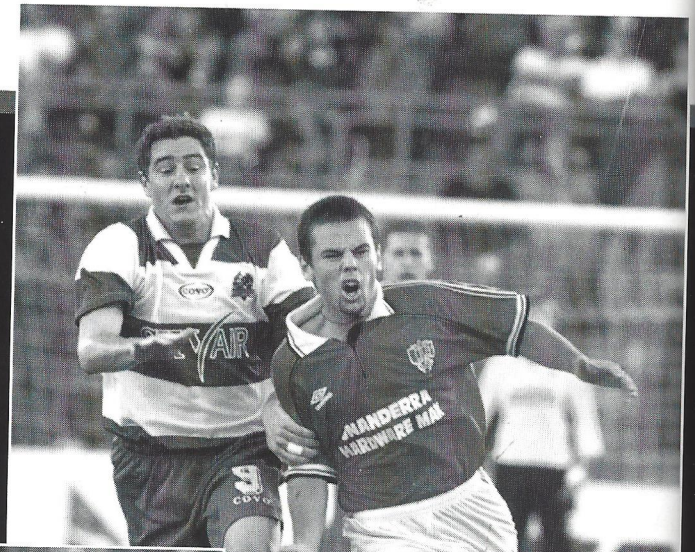
There's a piece of paper which sits proudly in the Wolves office. It's a telefax from FIFA,offering congratulations on winning the 2001 Oceania Championship and confirming the club as participants in the FIFA Club World Championship in Spain.

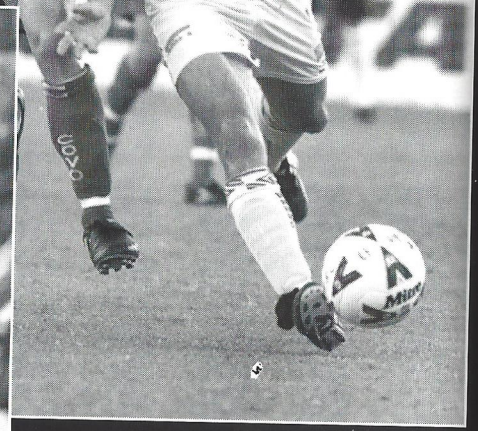
The Wolves need your support in Spain. Figtree Travel Service is offering a Wolves Supporters Package to the WCC, from July 29-August 10. For more information contact Figtree Travel 4228 9133. Hope to see you there!

Don't forget the Wolves meet Parramatta Power at WIN Stadium this Friday, not Saturday as was announced at the start of the season. Kick-off for Friday's game is 7.30pm.

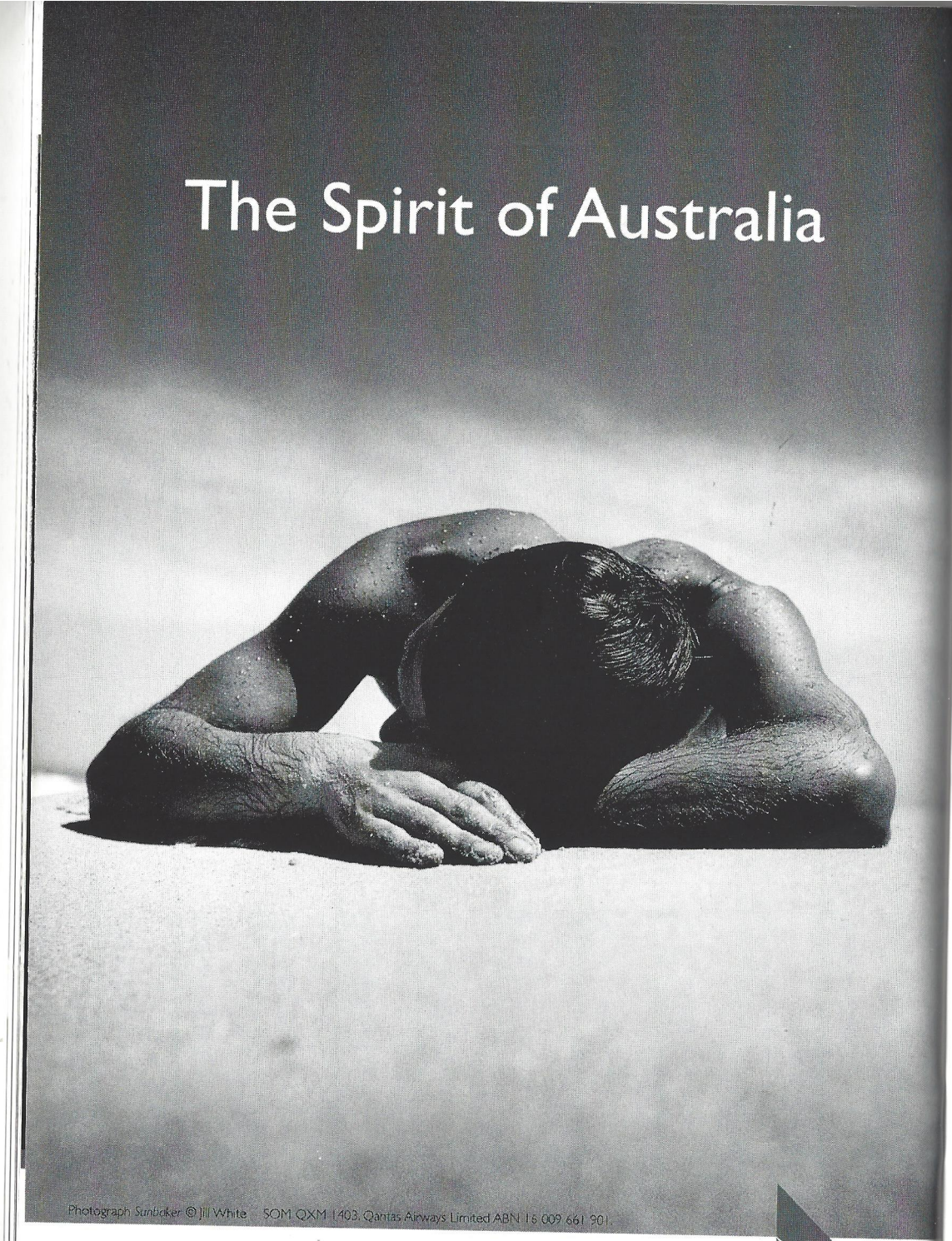
Highlights of the 'Knights' game

Photos by Orlando Chiodo, courtesy of The Illawarra Mercury





The Spirit of Australia



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● Steve Forshaw (left) and David Skeen are ecstatic about being included in tomorrow's Wolves line-up — but each for different reasons.

Happy days for Skeen, Forshaw

By PHIL MURPHY

Veteran of 258 NSL games David Skeen and rookie Steve Forshaw are "over the moon" for different reasons about being selected in the BHP Wolves team to take on Sydney CSC tomorrow.

Skeen will be making his comeback in midfield after a frustrating period in the youth team since breaking an ankle in the off-season.

The rangy Forshaw is making his league debut in place of suspended stopper Mick O'Shea.

Skeen, 30, said yesterday he was looking forward to Sunday. "I will probably be a bit nervous on Sunday morning and it is a long time since that has happened," he said.

"I was beginning to doubt whether I would get another chance because there are one or two young midfielders on the way up at the club.

"It has been frustrating for me, since I started back training it has been at the back of my mind that I wouldn't make it back to the senior team.

"Having been given the chance it is up to me to prove I can still do the business.

"The team is getting results and am hungry to be part of the success."

Forshaw has made two Cup appearances with the Wolves since joining the club at the start of the season.

He had been outstanding in the Bulli defence in recent years and is one of the most outstanding players in the ISA premier league.

He said yesterday he had been determined to do well in Wednesday night's Cup game against Marconi.

"With Mick (O'Shea) suspended on Sunday, I knew there was a spot vacant and I was a chance of filling it," Forshaw said.

"I jumped at the chance to join the Wolves at the start of the season.

"The training is great and they are a good bunch of blokes.

"I have really enjoyed being part of the senior squad and making my NSL debut will be something special.

"Playing in front of Charlie Yankos will be great because he reads the game so well and I know he will be a big help to me."

Forshaw has accumulated just 10 minutes' playing time as a replacement in the NSL, having taken the field late in two games.

Remember Steve Foreshaw? He was in the heart of the Wollongong defence in the early 1990s.

It was against Sydney CSC when the rangy defender made his league debut on December 20, 1992. Amazingly, veteran David Skeen had just returned from injury and was set to make his 258th NSL appearance on the same weekend.

So, despite it being the tall and the short of it (pictured), it was also the experienced and the inexperienced up against Sydney CSC. And it seems nothing has changed at the club, even in nine years, with Foreshaw saying: "The training is great and they are a good bunch of blokes." That's the spirit Steve!

Also in the team that day was a white-faced, long-haired pimply kid who went by the name Matt Horsley. Unfortunately for the Wolves, they lost 1-0 in a tight match in Sydney. But had their revenge the following season.

wolves winners

LAST HOME GAME

'1000 Club' results; 1st week - 'No. 497', 2nd - 'No. 120', 3rd - 'No. 799', 4th - 'No. 819', 5th - 'No. 448', 6th - 'No. 74', 7th - 'No. 607', 8th - 'No. 907', 9th - 'No. 366'.

'500 Club' results; 1st draw was 'No. 329' - **C. Triantafillou**, 2nd draw was 'No. 164' - **J. Guido**

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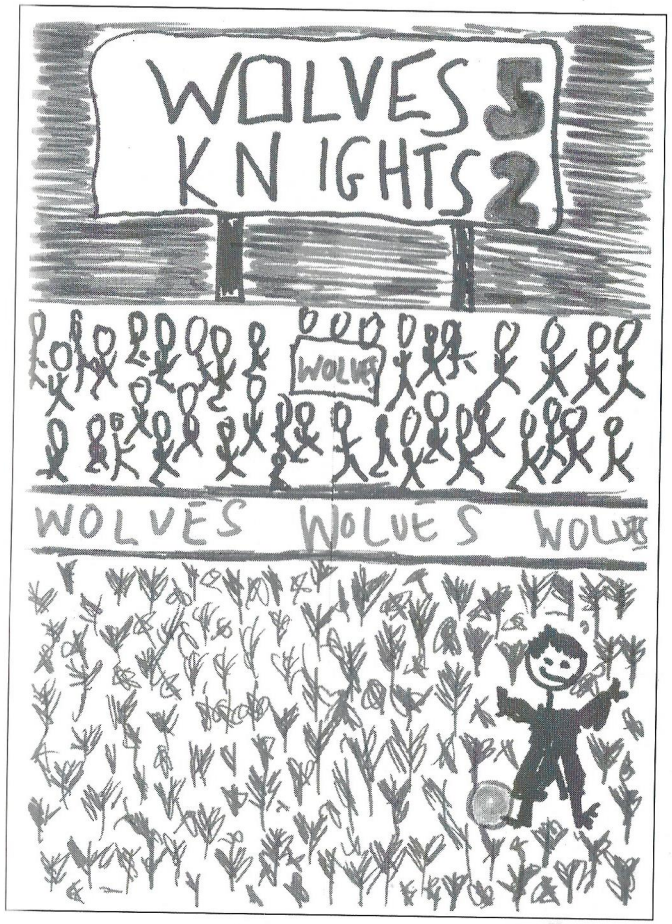
for the kids

FUN & GAMES

"Kids Page"

Hey Kids! if you have any drawings, jokes or letters for the Wollongong Wolves, send them to us and we might be able to print your work on this page.

Send work to: Wollongong Wolves, Squires Way Brandon Park, Fairy Meadow, Attn: Nathan Simpson



QUIZ:

1. Wollongong beat Melbourne 5-2 last weekend. Who scored for the Wolves?

   _____

2. Whose initials are RS?

   _____

3. Which player is heading to Southampton later this year?

   _____

4. Where did the Wolves win the Oceania Club Championship?

   _____

5. Who wears number 17?

   _____

ANSWERS:

1. Saso Petrovski, Stuart Young, Scott Chipperfield
2. Robbie Stanton
3. Jay Lucas
4. Papua New Guinea (PNG)
5. Ben Blake.

where's the ball?

PICCADILLY GIFTS & CARDS

Find the ball and win a Soccer Clock courtesy of Piccadilly Gifts and Cards!

Each issue we publish a different action shot of the Wolves. To be in the draw simply draw a circle where you think the ball has been removed from the photo, then fill in the coupon and place it in the barrel at WIN Stadium. ***The winner of the Melbourne Knights game was Mitch Hoswell***

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faces in the crowd

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Each home game we will be taking a photo in the crowd at WIN Stadium. We will then circle a face in the crowd, and publish the photo in an upcoming home game programme.

So if you were at one of the Wolves' last home games, look out for yourself in the picture below. If not, look for yourself in the next home game programme.

If it is your face we circle simply present yourself at the Wolves office to collect your prize.

The winner of the Melbourne Knights game was Garry Murphy, Figtree

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